

HEALTH
A 13 JUN 1946
C.R.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN

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ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. O. L. Appleton, Medical Officer
of Health, for the year ended 31st December, 1945,
in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/46
dated 11th February 1946.

SECTION - A

<u>Area</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,070 acres
<u>Population</u> (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,400
<u>Number of inhabited houses at end of 1945, according to Rate Books</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	3160
<u>Rateable value for whole District..</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32,606
<u>Product of penny rate</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	£139
<u>Vital statistics</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	None available

SECTION - B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

An Assistant Sanitary Inspector has been appointed, in addition to the staff of former years. He has been of valuable assistance in the work of sanitary supervision of the area, and particularly in carrying out the housing survey required by the Ministry of Health.

SECTION - C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

- (i) Water. During the year there has been no serious or acute shortage of water, although during the summer a temporary shortage was experienced in some villages dependent solely upon shallow wells.
- However, of numerous water samples taken for chemical analysis, a number indicated water of poor quality and unsatisfactory. It is to be hoped a start will soon be made on the scheme for laying piped water mains throughout the District, as drawn up by the Council's Consultant Engineer. At present 16.4% of the houses in the District are supplied from piped water mains.
- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage. This remains much the same as in previous years. If and when the piped water scheme referred to above and submitted to the Ministry of Health receives approval, the time will then arise for the Council to consider proper sewerage disposal, particularly in the larger villages. A number of cesspools considered inadequate have been enlarged, and ashpits are gradually being done away with.
- (iii) Scavenging. During the year, only Great Massingham, Castleacre and part of Harpley have received the benefit of a scavenging service. On two occasions efforts were made to increase the service to other parishes, but difficulty in procuring the necessary labour prevented this. It is to be hoped, with labour difficulties becoming less acute, a general scavenging scheme for the whole District will be introduced.

SECTION - D

Housing. Except for urgent repair works under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, very little building work has been carried out. With the introduction of Essential Works Licences no further building other than that certified as urgent or essential has been permitted.

In July a start was made on a housing survey of the District recommended in the Hobhouse Report. Each parish is being surveyed in detail, and the houses classified according to their structural condition and standard of fitness. Seven parishes have been completed (approximately 900 houses) and proper records made. A copy of the survey to date is being forwarded for the information of the County Medical Officer of Health.

With regard to new housing, Stage 1 of the Council's Permanent Housing Programme received the approval of the Ministry of Health, and includes for the erection of 46 brick-built dwellings and 16 Swedish Timber houses.

<u>Milk.</u>	Number of Registered Cowkeepers	102
"	" Accredited Producers	6
"	" Samples for Methylene Blue test	22
"	" Repeat Samples	7
"	" Samples failed in Methylene Blue test	6

During the year three Accredited producers received approval as T.T. producers, two Accredited producers' licences were suspended, and one producer moved from the District.

SECTION - E

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISEASE	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	-	-
Scarlet fever (including one non-civilian)	21	7	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Erysipelas	Nil	-	-
Ophthalmia	1	1	-
Measles	131	-	-
Whooping cough	36	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	Nil	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil	-	-
Infectious Hepatitis (including 2 non-civilian)	6	-	-
Malaria (Relapse, non-civilian)	4	-	-
Shame Dysentry (non-civilian)	1	-	-
Total	206	8	-

The year has been marked by the considerable incidence of measles and by the reduction of whooping cough compared with 1944. The incidence of scarlet fever has not been excessive, and the same can be said of pneumonia. The absence of diphtheria is noteworthy. The cases occurring in non-civilian patients were notified to me by the Service Authorities.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following are the number of new cases notified during the year:-

Male Pulmonary	2
Male Non-Pulmonary	1
Female Pulmonary	5
Female Non-Pulmonary	3
Total	<u>11</u>

This is slightly less than the total of last year. It is satisfactory to record no increase.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. My remarks of last year still apply. Many families are undoubtedly taking advantage of the scheme, but the absence of diphtheria in the District tends to cause many parents with children to overlook it. There were no cases of diphtheria during 1945.

SCABIES. As far as I am able to judge, there has been a diminution in the District of this troublesome complaint. The special lotion (Benzyl Benzoate) is still available free and is supplied by the Council.

VENEREAL DISEASE. There is no evidence of any abnormal prevalence of these diseases. The clinic at King's Lynn Hospital is always available.

GENERAL REMARKS

The chief feature in the general health of the District has been an extensive epidemic of measles in children; apart from that the year has been a healthy one. Influenza has not been too obtrusive. The end of the war has undoubtedly raised the mental attitude of the public, although the continued food restrictions retard the full recovery from the effects of the recent prolonged state of war.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge the valuable assistance of the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Watkins), and to thank him for the information he has given me in compiling this report.

O. L. APPLETON, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1946.

